

REMARKS

Claim status

Claims 1-32 were pending in the case at the time of the current Office Action. Claims 1, 6-8, 10-11, 15, 22, 24, and 29 are currently amended herein. Claims 30-32 are cancelled herein. Claims 1-29 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 30-32 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing objection in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

Claims 30-32 have been cancelled herein.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection has been overcome and should be removed.

Section 112 rejections

Claims 6-8, 10-21, 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

Claims 6-8, 10-11, and 29 have been amended herein according to the Examiner's suggestion to overcome the rejection. Claim 32 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection has been overcome and should be removed.

Section 102 rejections

In the current Office action, claims 1-5, 9, 11-15, and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Doyle (U.S. 6,678,793).

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for responding to a content request from a requesting client machine, comprising:

receiving a first content request from the requesting client machine, wherein said requesting client machine does not send information identifying a secondary server containing a content corresponding to said first content request;

generating second content request based on the first content request;

transmitting the second content request to at least one secondary server known to contain said content;

receiving said content from said at least one secondary server in response to said second content request; and

forwarding to the requesting client machine the received content as the content corresponding to the first content request.

Independent claim 11 recites a system usable to respond to a content request received from a requesting client machine, comprising a proxy server able to receive the content request, wherein said requesting client machine does not send information identifying a secondary server containing a content corresponding to said content request, and said proxy server able to generate and transmit a second content request to at least one secondary server known to contain said content, and said proxy server able to receive the content from said at least one secondary server in response to said second content request and transmit the received content to the requesting client machine as the content corresponding to said content request.

Independent claim 22 recites a system usable to respond to a content request received from a requesting client machine, comprising:

means for receiving a first content request from the requesting client machine, wherein said requesting client machine does not send information identifying a secondary server containing a content corresponding to said first content request;

means for generating a second content request based on said first content request and transmitting said second content request to at least one secondary server known to contain said content;

means for receiving said content in response to the second content request from said at least one secondary server; and

means for transmitting the received content to the requesting content machine as that content corresponding to the first content request.

It is respectfully submitted that Doyle (U.S. 6,678,793), hereinafter Doyle, does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, Doyle does not teach or suggest that the requesting client does not send information identifying a secondary server containing a content corresponding to the first content request, as does the claimed invention. Column 7, lines 24-26 of Doyle states, "Furthermore, if no proxy server or edge server is encountered in the network path to the application server 310, then the processing of Blocks 340 through 370 is not performed." This statement strongly indicates that, referring to Fig. 3 of Doyle, steps 340 through 370 can be bypassed such that the request from the client 300 would go directly to the application server 310. The only way this can happen is if the client 300 sends information identifying the application server 310 in the first place. That is, the client knows the identity of the application server from which the desired content can be obtained over the network. As a result, Doyle is essentially describing the prior art situations of Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 of the present application where the client knows and sends the address (i.e., identifying information) of the secondary server (i.e., application server). Doyle does not teach or suggest relying on the proxy server to determine and know which secondary server or servers contain the desired content as does the claimed invention. Furthermore, Doyle does not teach or suggest generating a second content request as does the claimed invention. Instead, Doyle describes simply forwarding the original content request to the target application server (column 7, lines 48-51).

Therefore, in view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, and 22 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, and 22 define allowable subject matter. Also, since claims 2-5, 9, 12-15, and 23-26 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 11, or 22, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5, 9, 12-15, and 23-26 define allowable subject matter as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-5, 9, 11-15, and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be removed.

Section 103 rejections

In the current Office action, claims 6-8, 10, 16-21, and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (U.S. 6,678,793), in view of Shannon (U.S. 6,233,618).

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

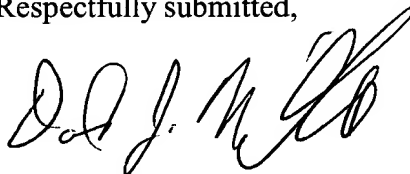
It is respectfully submitted that neither Doyle, Shannon (U.S. 6,233,618), hereinafter Shannon, nor the combination thereof teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, neither Doyle, Shannon, nor the combination thereof teach or suggest that the requesting client does not send information identifying a secondary server containing a content corresponding to the first content request, as does the claimed invention. This argument was previously made above for Doyle. In fact, Shannon specifically states, "...no matter what the application is...the information in the request identifies the source (i.e., who or which client is making the request) and identifies what server or remote computer will supply data in response to the request." (column 4, lines 18-23). Instead, Shannon is directed to providing access control and storing information indicating destinations for requests that are to be restricted for certain clients (column 9, lines 18-24). Shannon is not directed to using a proxy server to identify secondary servers that contain content corresponding to a content request from a client as is the claimed invention. The secondary servers are already identified by the client in Shannon. Shannon, instead, is directed to determining if the secondary server in the request from the client is restricted or not. Also, Shannon is not directed to having a content map in a proxy server that maps content requests to secondary servers containing content corresponding the content request,

as is the claimed invention. Instead, Shannon is directed to restricting access my mapping clients to restricted servers such that content requests by a client will not be forwarded to a restricted server. (column 3, lines 60-67).

Therefore, in view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, and 22 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, and 22 define allowable subject matter. Also, since claims 6-8, 10, 16-21, and 27-32 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 11, or 22, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-8, 10, 16-21, and 27-32 define allowable subject matter as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 6-8, 10, 16-21, and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be removed.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections based at least on the arguments made above. After such reconsideration, it is urged that allowance of all pending claims will be in order.

Respectfully submitted,



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